

Nephi. People from St. George came, bringing wine, dried grapes and cattle to trade for salt. Loads of flour came from Beaver, and men came from Provo, Springville and other northern settlements with loads of shoes, boots, and other merchandise to exchange for salt, where frequently, they found it necessary to wait a week before they could secure their load.

For two years the plant was operated in Nephi, then the Indians being more peaceful, the plant was again moved to a salt spring about fifteen miles from town, and the work continued. After some time, Mr. Salisbury sold his share to Mr. Jenkins. In 1868, Mr. Salisbury formed a partnership with *William Warner*, and they began the manufacture of salt at a spring located seven miles from town. This plant was continued until 1892, when, due to the scarcity of firewood, and the drop in the price of salt, the work was discontinued.

—Alice P. McCune.

### PIONEER MEDICINES

Simple remedies were used by the Pioneers of Utah. Every home had its own medicine shelf which contained a few basic remedies. In the back yards, along ditch banks, in canyons and mountains grew various herbs, the medical value of which the Pioneers soon learned. Coupled with this was the knowledge brought by midwives and nurses from the old world. The Indian, the trapper and the neighbor Pioneer taught the newcomer the value of these herbs as well as their preparation and the method of administering them.

*Olive Oil.* No Pioneer home was ever without olive oil. Great faith was placed in its efficacy. The Elders of the L. D. S. Church consecrated the oil to heal the sick and used it in this ordinance of the Church. It was used to rub the outside of the body and was given inwardly to cure ailments of many kinds. Olive oil was turned to before all other remedies. In the Pioneer home it was known as *sweet oil*.

*Arnica:* A flower when added to alcohol was rubbed on affected parts of the body. It was kept in every home and used to ease the pain of sprains, rheumatism or any muscular pain. *Arrowroot:* Used to cure bowel complaints. *Asafoetida:* Used in a pill as a nervous stimulant. *Belladonna:* A narcotic poison used to cure convulsions and spasms. *Burdock and Bean Pods:* Used in cases of erysipelas. *Camphor:* Used for cramps and to rub on parts affected with pain or soreness. It would revive faintness, restore powers of life, and help cure from convulsions. *Carrot Seed:* When ground into powder relieved colic and increased the flow of urine. *Castor Oil:* Used for inflammation of the bowels. *Catnip:* Tea given for fever, to promote perspiration, induce sleep, a cure for smallpox and scarlet fever and for nervous headaches of females. In poultice form, catnip was very valuable when applied to painful swellings.

*Cayenne:* Used as a tonic to help digestion, to aid in obstructed menstruation, quinsy and diseases of the throat. When made in a plaster with honey it was a cure for rheumatism. Every pioneer woman knew that cayenne tea was good for colds or coughs. *Clover:* The blossoms and leaves of the pink sweet clover, dried and made into a tea to drink was believed to cure cancer. *Cow Parsnip,* known as Masterwort: Poison when green, but when dried was used to expel gas. *Dandelion:* The root was made into bitters to cure yellow jaundice and diseases of the liver and kidneys. The extract was used in making liver pills to aid digestion. Dandelion wine was commonly used. *Elderberry:* To cure children's diseases, and in cases of dropsy in adults. A salve made by stewing the inner bark in lard was used for burns, scalds, cuts, etc. *Fennel:* The seeds and leaves were used for colic and cramps. *Fever-Few:* A flower found in pioneer gardens. Used as a nerve tonic, for hysterics, colds, fevers; and some claimed it was a cure for the St. Vitas dance. *Flax Seed:* Used internally for coughs and lung congestion. Also used as a poultice for styes, cuts and sores. *Garlic:* Onion leeks are used for bronchitis and garlic is good to cure worms and stomach trouble. *Ginger:* Tea brewed for pain in the stomach and bowels and taken just before retiring. *Golden Seal:* Used as a tonic and to cure canker and a sore mouth of any kind. It was used as a wash for sore eyes, cuts and sores of the body. *Hedge Nettles:* Good for hemorrhage of the lungs or stomach. Relieved neuralgia and promoted menstruation.

*Horehound:* Excellent for colds, coughs and consumption. A warm tea would induce sweating and was a female cure in painful menstruation and hysterics. *Hops:* The roots were ground in a powder to make pills to sooth irritation of the kidneys or bladder. Hop tea quit drink craving and settled the stomach and was useful in producing sleep. Many pioneer fences were covered with hop vines. *Laudanum:* A common cure for toothache. A deadly poison, but given to adults in 30-drop portions. A sedative. *Marshmallow:* The root of this weed was splendid relief in kidney trouble. When steeped and mixed with lard it made an effective dressing for skin diseases. Tea made from this plant was served to children who suffered from Bright's Disease. The leaves were put in a poultice for relief from sprains. *Milk Weed:* A valuable remedy for dropsy. *Motherwort:* A remedy like horehound and an excellent nervine. Used in all female troubles. *Mustard:* Used as a stimulant, poultices for colds and for baths for the body and feet to cure grippe. *Onion:* Syrup of onions was mixed with a little salt and made into a poultice and applied to the palm of the hands and the bottoms of the feet to draw out fever. Used commonly in pneumonia cases. *Peppermint:* When brewed as a tea peppermint induced sweating and was a relief for cramps, bowel complaints and help to women in childbirth. *Pine Gum:* When steeped and used as a drink it aided in cure of pneumonia. Pine

gum was used to draw out slivers and infections. *Plantain*: The juices of the leaves were used internally for snake bite, spider and insect bites and the leaves, in poultice form, were applied externally to wounds, sores, ulcers, and erysipelas.

*Quinine*: A sure cure for colds and fevers. This is one of the most ancient medicines known to man. *Saffron*: The tea of saffron induced perspiration in small pox, measles, etc. and brought the rash to the surface of the body. *Sage*: Tame sage was used in case of colds, coughs, and like congestion and a tea made from it was a cooling drink for fevers, sore throat and quinsy. When mixed with lard it was used on sore throats. To bring on a sweat, give patient warm sage tea, put to bed with hot bricks about the body. Wild sage was used for a food flavoring and as a shampoo for the head to promote the growth of hair. *Sarsaparilla*: This was a blood purifier in the Spring. *Senna*: This was a most common household remedy. It was steeped and given to children as a mild cathartic. *Slippery Elm*: The bark was made into a tea for an all-around cure. When made into a poultice it was used for inflammations, sores, gatherings and ulcers. *Tansy*: As a tea it was used for a tonic and to promote sweating. It was considered to be a woman's medicine. *Tobacco*: Used to ease cuts and bruises in both man and animal. *Turpentine*: This was used as a stimulant for the kidneys and also for sore throats, colds, worms, bleeding of the lungs and dysentery.

*In Beaver*. When the first Pioneers settled in Beaver, the Indians outnumbered them, and when they had sickness in their homes, they used many old remedies which were given them by the Indians. These Indian medicines consisted of roots, barks, and seeds which grew wild in the canyons and on the hills. They told the pioneers how to use them all.

There were no drug stores for a long time after Beaver was settled so the pioneers had to depend upon these wild herbs. Every fall before the first frost came the pioneers gathered certain herbs. These were washed and dried, then put away for winter use. They were careful to do this before the severe frosts came. They learned the value of all herbs that grew. They gathered and dried yarrow, tansy, catnip, golden-rod, peppermint, cheeseweed, spearmint, sego lily roots, hops, wild mustard seeds, and horehound. They made "Golden Seal" from the wild grape root and used it for the treatment of canker.

The Indians told them to use mud and hot sod for rheumatism and inflammation. Sage brush tea was used in the spring as tonic and liver medicine. It was also used to bathe swollen joints and sprains, as well as blood poison. Pumpkin seeds were used to cure tapeworm of the stomach.

Molasses was mixed with sulphur and given to the children for medicine in the spring. Even the teacher would line the chil-

dren up and give them each a spoonful of this spring tonic. The pioneer mothers usually had a supply of molasses candy flavored with horehound and cayenne pepper to be used for colds and coughs. Then, when anyone had pneumonia they were treated with hot onion poultices.

Often when a disease broke out some mothers would fill a little bag with asafoetida and tie it around the child's neck. The strong smell was supposed to drive the disease away.

—*Utah and the West Bulletin*—1936

### SILK INDUSTRY IN UTAH

The very first silkworms that were raised in Dixie were at Santa Clara in the '60s by Lydia Knight. The cocoons were reeled and made into skeins and some thread was made of it. Some skeins of the silk, also some nets and mits made of the thread were sent to the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876. It was said that the silk in the skeins was as nice and smooth and the coloring as nice as any imported silk.

In the early seventies Mrs. Caroline Jackson planted a mulberry grove on the west half of her property in St. George City. These mulberry leaves were to feed silkworms. Soon other people began to plant mulberry trees. In 1875 Mrs. Jackson sent for some silkworm eggs and raised the first silkworms in St. George. Ann C. Woodbury got some from her and raised worms for twenty-five years or more.

In 1873 Mrs. Susan Stringham was sent from Salt Lake City to instruct the people in raising silkworms. Probably ten or twelve raised a few worms every year but there was not so much done until 1895 when a silk commission was appointed and \$900 was appropriated by the Legislature to carry on the work. Twenty-five cents was to be paid as a bounty on every pound of cocoons raised. Ann C. Woodbury was appointed a member of the Silk Commission at which post she served until the commission and bounty were discontinued in 1906.

The silk business was interesting as an experiment, but was never really profitable. When the bounty was removed the industry died a natural death, but the mulberry trees remain as ornaments and shade trees for the passersby. Brigham Young wanted the people to be self-supporting and not have to depend on other places and people for their needs.

Silkworms were yellowish white and had darker rings around their bodies. When they were first hatched out of small brown eggs they were very tiny worms. They never stopped eating. All the silkworm would eat was mulberry leaves from the trees. The worm never sleeps but just keeps eating and eating. They get to their full growth in six weeks and then they start to spin a web and a cocoon. The silkworms would shut themselves